30th March 1954]

Stopping of ' thira ', an annual religious festival, in Mannathamparamb kovil on account of the Governor's stay at Kozhikode.

* 480 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on account of the stay of the Governor of Madras at the bungalow in the Florical Hill, Kozhikode, Malabar, on 6th February 1954, during his recent tour in Malabar, the Police authorities of Chevayoor Police station, Kozhikode, threatened the trustees of Mannathamparamb kovil and asked them to stop ' thira ' (religious annual festival) in the kovil on that day?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from which source the Hon. Minister got the report of the incident? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" From official sources, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that in Malabar even the newspapers were publishing this report and the district officers did not contradict that report? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" What is published in the newspapers cannot be taken as gospel truth. The hon. Member knows what are published in the newspapers. We have verified it and there is no basis for the allegation made by the hon. Member."

Sea erosion in Beypore town, Malabar.

* 481 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of damages caused by sea erosion in Beypore town in Malabar for the last five financial years;

(*b*) whether any permanent measures are contemplated by the Government to check this erosion at the place; and

(*c*) if so, the cost of the same and the present stage of the proposal?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) There was some erosion in Beypore only during the last two financial years. In July 1952, the sea encroached to a distance of about one furlong and caused damages to 9 fishermens huts and uprooted 115 coconut trees. In July 1953, the sea further advanced by about half a furlong in the same area and uprooted 147 coconut trees and damaged 9 huts.

" (*b*) No Sir, the silt brought down by the river during the period of the north-east monsoon will get deposited along the margin of the sea shore and the sea shore can be expected